CATS NEWSLETTER

CAPITAL AREA TIMEX SINCLAIR
USERS GROUP
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Pieter van Dijk: The Z80, the user's viewpoint
Mark Steuber of Sharp's: From the dealer's side

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PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

CAPITAL FEAST

Things are really shaping up for our Capital Feast next May. The work is beginning in earnest especially with regards to notifying vendors about it and to gathering literature on what to do and see in Washington that can be given to the computer widows or widowers. Audrey Curnutt will give us an update on things at the November meeting. I am sure that Audrey and the rest of the committee would appreciate any help they can get; so, if you want to help in a large or small way, join up now and get in on the ground floor!

CATS BBS

Your Executive Board voted unanimously to accept Steve Green's written proposal with some provisio's to set up an electronic Bulletin Board for CATS. This BBS can be very useful to the club and for conveying information on the Capital Feast. More details are contained in the notes on the Executive Board meeting found later in this issue.

MISCELLANY

Tom Bent shared with those of us assembled at the October meeting the news that Digital Precision was working on an MS-DOS emulator for the QL. His sources indicated that it was due out in several months. Tom also mentioned that the disk controller chips were back ordered but would be shipped shortly. Vernon has ordered the anti-bounce keyboard chip for the QL's.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Bill

Happy Thanksgiving

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, it's that time again, when you can tell the Editor by looking for the person with one eye glued on the computer screen and the other on the calendar with the deadlines marked in red. For our members and readers "outside the Beltway", I would suggest that they not call their Washington, DC friends on Sunday, at least for the next two months. You see, this is a football town and we are all praying for a minor miracle on the next seven Sundays as the Redskins play the toughest second half schedule in the NFL. Even computers play second fiddle to the 'Skins. " So," you ask, "what has this got to do with me?"

Directly, unless you are endowed with Season Tickets, nothing. Indirectly, everything. We need this type zeal for our Fest in May. There is much to do and not a great deal of time to do it. By the time that you get this newsletter, there will be about 6 months till the Golden Weekend. We need everybody to contribute whatever they can and, if they do, the Fest will be a success. The biggest problem, as I see it, is that the contribution needs to be in the form of direct participation, something we all can seem to find some excuse for not giving. We really need your help. The old adage that "You CAN make the difference" is really true in this case. This issue is the newsletter equivalent of a "slow news day" and I guess I'm thankful for the respite so that I can get cought up with all of the articles that I said would be continued "in the next issue". It makes me apprehensive because the sparse offerings of the members might indicate a permanent drying up of contributions. Boys and girls, DON'T DO THIS TO ME! I am your friend and my cardiologist says that this kind of suspense is not good. Let's keep sending in those cards and letters. You've been really good in the past, so I'm hoping that this is just temporary.

THE CHIP BUY

The order has been placed for 32 keyboard anti-rollover chips. If you didn't sign up at the meeting or send me your name in the mail, you didn't get in on the buy. I don't know if we will get dunned for Customs charges, so I'm not sure how much the final price will be, but it should be around $14-15. Several people payed so, if the costs are less, we will send refund checks.

THE NEWSLETTER

Like the Marines, I'm looking for a "few good men" but unlike the Corps, I'll settle for just ONE! I intend to turn over the reigns next June, so it is imperative that someone step forward and volunteer. If we do this right, the transition should be smooth. No you don't have to have an Atari ST to do the job. My picks for the two best, The BoSTUG Sinclair Timex Newsletter and the ZXAppeal aren't, yet they pack more information to the page than all of the rest!

MAILBAG USERS ALERT

Please see Page 3 for special instructions.

THIS ISSUE

Inside, we have our usual eclectic offering. Herb Schaaf has reviewed the Nucleon suite of programs from France. He looks at it from the point of a first time user and those that are new to the QL can benefit from his experiences. Duane Parker has developed some utilities for you to include in your own programs. Pieter van Dijk continues with his series on the Z88, this time on file transfers from the QL to the Z88. Pieter is also this month's speaker and I am looking forward to learning more about the Z80. We have a new contributor, Charles Reise, from St. Louis and he has submitted a checkbook program. Catching up on old business, we have the second part of Mike Mitchell's RAMDisk article started in the September issue. If you are into packet radio you definitely need to read Bob Diggs' article on packet radio with the QL. Right now Bob is doing what I'd like to be doing, cruising down the Inland Waterway to Florida on his sailboad. Boy, some guys have all the luck! Last but not least, I thought you'd like to look at the work of our premier Treasurer, Ruth Fegley. Her monthly report is the reason that our financial condition is as good as it is. That's about it, except for my monthly appeal for ARTICLES. I'll add to it this month by asking for ASCII files (instead of printing them to paper, print them to file so the gain a _lis extension). This saves me the time required to load Quill and then making a _lis file myself. MS-DOS types can send me .txt files. Thanks.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

Key Dates

NOVEMBER

12 General Membership Meeting

22 Executive Board Meeting

24 THANKSGIVING

25 December Newsletter DEADLINE

DECEMBER

10 General Membership Meeting

20 Executive Board Meeting

25 CHRISTMAS

30 January Newsletter DEADLINE

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the newsletter can be in hard copy, with *columns 2 1/4 inches wide* or, preferably, magnetic media. For the QL, microdrive cartridge, 5 1/4" DS/DD or Quad density disks, or 3 1/2" disks. For the ZX81, TS1000, or 2068, cassettes only, with titles on the box.

Send material to:

Editor, CATS Newsletter

Box 467

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

POTPOURRI

News Around the Beltway

MAILBAG ALERT

Peter Hale, one of the Boston Sinclair Timex User Group (BoSTUG) gurus has written us about some minor errors in his excellent program MAILBAG. In case you didn't know it, Peter is also the author of TAX-I-QL and TAX-I-QL/87, the only tax program written for the QL and a major applications program in its own right. I hope that there is a TAX-I-QL/88 in the works! Here's what he says:

Any member of CATS who purchased EMSoft's MAILBAG, an address database for the QL, prior to November 1, 1988, is invited to return the original for free replacement with a copy free of minor errors that may detract from the full enjoyment of the program. Forward the original medium to EMSoft, P.O. Box 8763, Boston, MA 02114. Please include your return address.

Ed. Note—Don't you wish all the software developers/~~distributors~~ treated their customers this way?

The CATS Executive Board and the Newsletter Staff would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Drive Safely

NOVEMBER MEETING AGENDA

11:00 Hardware Workshop

12:00 CYA Workshop

1:00 Lunch

2:00 General Meeting

2:45 The Z88—Pieter van Dijk

3:30 Open Discussion

4:30 Adjourn

NOTE: Mark Steuber (Mr. QL) from Sharp's will be at the meeting to talk about the Z88 and show off many QL goodies. *If you have any questions for Mark, now is the time to ask them and, just think, it doesn't cost you for a long distance call!*

GET READY FOR THE CATS CHRISTMAS PARTY

If you haven't been to the December meetings the last two years, you've missed the annual Christmas party. Hank Dickson will have an in depth article in next month's newsletter; however, I will try to whet your appetite. You should be looking around for a suitable Timex/Sinclair gift for the gift exchange. It could be a pice of software or a hardware item. Let your imagination go. Remember, mark December 12th down on your calendar.

DON'T MISS IT!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Executive Rumblings

10-18-88

Notes from the Executive Meeting

First, for all you BBS users, C.A.T.S will go on line!!! Thanks to Steve Greene's talk on "Telecomputing with Timex Sinclair Computers", last month, we are establishing a BBS.

Who'll be SYSOP and what the number will be, is still to be worked out. Stay tuned.

S.M.U.G. was next on our list. We'll give it a try.

Audrey Curnutt is now the Chairperson of the Computer Feast, Bob Curnutt, Secretary, and Stan Guttenberg is our Treasurer.

A Personal Note--My thanks to James Wilson of Arkon, Ohio for your help. I hope you have VHS, because I'm sending you a tape of one of our meetings.

TAPE LIBRARY INFORMATION

The C.A.T.S. tape library is available to all full ($18) members. Prices, per cassette, are $3.00 by mail or $1.00 at the meeting.

C.A.T.S. does not have Public Domain software for sale.

Mail order requests, and submissions for publication, should be sent to the tape librarian:

Rev. John Riley

120 N. Fairlawn Dr.

Carrollton, GA 30117

Checks or money orders should be made payable to C.A.T.S.

We will continue to "compensate" contributors with one free cassette from the library.

QL on the QT by Vernon Smith

Compared to other months, the news is rather sparse. Just two items.

QL EMULATOR FOR ATARI

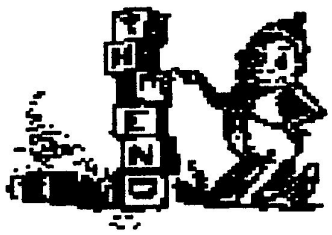
Strong Computing the Welsh software/hardware vendor is selling an emulator for the Atari ST that will allow the user to run QL programs. It was reviewed favorably in the latest issue of QUANTA and the October issue of QL World. From the sound it, I would say that it is the best of both worlds. Iv've been on order for one for the last two months and Strong said that they'd shipped it. Is that the Welsh equivalent of "your check is in the mail"? Anyway, I hope to have it up and running by the time I write this column for December. It is both a hardware add-in and a software patch. The hardware board requires that the existing shielding be removed and this may be the reason you probably won't see the unit marketed in the US since the Atari might not pass the FCC standards. The second reason that I believe it will mostly be a novelty here, and maybe in the rest of the world as well. is that it needs a ZX8301 chip to run. Existing QL owners should have no problem since they can pop the one out of their machine. The unit is sold sans ZX8301. Strong said that they need 1000 (!) of these chips, alone, for the emulator and QL needs. PV Tubes is out of stock as well. The rest of the world could probably use that many, and then some. The key, unfortunately, may be Alan Sugar (Mr Amstrad), and with his hostility towards all things QL, what a neat way to finally torpedo the machine that makes his MS-DOS machines look bad. Proprietary chips may be great but when you have an orphan computer it spells disaster, a la the 2068.

DIGITAL PRECISION UPGRADES PROGRAMS

Digital Precision is in the process of upgrading some of their programs. DP is one of the major software houses in the UK for the QL and, to me, this sends two signals, one favorable and the other just so-so. First, DP is into the QL for the long haul. They couldn't hope to amortize the cost of the upgrades if they don't stick around. The second signal is harder to interpret. Upgraded software may help to drive out the weaker software houses, which could eliminate the competition and allow DP to raise their prices. I hear that one of the programs to be upgraded is Desktop Publisher and that, among other things, the global page layout will be a higher resolution. I hope that they do more than this, especially in the text entry area. I will be anxiously awaiting its debut. One point should be made in DP's favor and that is they have been uncharacteristically silent about these developments. I hope this is a marketing strategy rather than an indication that the upgrades are "vaporware", probably never to see the light of day. Keep your fingers crossed.

I don't know how many of you are using 3 1/2" drives, probably very few; however, for those that are DS/DD disk prices are down to 85 cents each and they are no longer in short supply. Call MEI (800 634-3478). They also have excellent prices on printer ribbons and 5 1/4" disks.

Several months ago I received Text87, a new WYSIWYG word processing program. Due to the press of business I've not been able to become proficient enough to give it a fair review. In keeping with my policy of never taking the word of another reviewer or incorporating advertising copy into my evaluation, I will hold off for the time being.



QL 'n PACKET

by Bob Diggs

Alex in July, "Friends of QZX", told the readers I was trying to put my QL on Packet. I am proud to say that I have done it and since there seems to be so little written about it I'll tell what I know and hope the ball will start to roll and more knowledgeable people will fill in the gaps.

My Packet activity has been limited to 2 meter using an MFJ-1270B TNC connected to Ser2. I have the unexpanded QL, no floppies, just microdrives. I use two programs: QLTerm by Richard Moldavan and Mike_term from April QZX. Each has a special use, each has different problems and neither is completely satisfactory. However, I am using my QL on Packet and it is available whenever I want it! Ser1 goes to my CITIZEN 120D printer and Ser2 is connected to my TNC.

My old setup used either the T/S 1000 or 1500, COMLINK II, and an Alphaacom 32 printer. A very satisfactory set up, indeed, primarily because I could dump the screen to the printer, something I can't do with my QL. I still use the 1500 on occasion but the keyboard and a few other things about this great computer have put it on the back burner.

I ordered my QL just before we took off for South Africa last December and had it shipped to Florida where it is better for us ole folk in the winter. Incidently, I had a ball operating in one of the new tribal homelands, The Republic of Ciskei, as S42Q. But that's another story. When we got back in mid January, there it was- a real sophisticated computer for an ole fogey, who had to start all over again. And, incidently, this story is coming by way of Quill on my QL and CITIZEN 120D printer.

I had no idea how to run the machine much less get on Packet. I used my T/S 1000 with only moderate sucess. I need a better antenna system in Florida, for sure. This year we will go there on our sailboat and I'm sure the antenna up fifty feet will do better.

I went to the Winterfest at Orlando hoping to get information about Packet only to be asked by almost everyone, "What's packet?" All was not lost because I was guided toward QLTerm and learned the Ser2 pins are not as shown in QLUG. That became academic because I bought a standard cable and it works just fine. Befor leaving the Winterfest I ordered QLTerm from Sharp's, because if it worked so well on a modem, then it was bound to work on Packet.

My first attempt at QL'n Packet and QLTerm was a big disappointment because I was using TV instead of a monitor. I called Sharp's to find out

Continued on Page 8

QL UTILITIES by Dick Parker

A Menu Driven Selection Program

Some utilities are used time and again in one's computer operations. Each of us has our favorite utilities. This program presents a menu program which will allow easy selection from a group of these utility programs residing at the bottom of memory. It is a defined procedure which calls a number of other procedures. These other procedures are your choice utilities. For illustrtive purposes, a few such procedures are included in the program listing.

A call to this program can be put in your boot routine to provide an automatic initialization with the menu. Arrow keys or number keys will move you about the menu in the normal fashion. Keying ENTER on the desired highlighted strip will obtain the desired utility. Some utilities can return you to the menu. Study the code to see how it can be modified to your needs.

The screen dimensions shown in the program are for use on a RGB monitor. A TV would use a screen 455x200 instead of 511x255 with appropiate offsets to center it. The menu selection code is contained in the first 87 lines of the program. Blanks are critical only in the two lines containing START and STOP and may need to be changed to fit your screen. The first six procs are original to me. The others are modifications of code from various sources.

THE BOOT PROGRAM

```
10 CLEAR
20 WINDOW 460,190,20,0:CSIZE 2,1:CLS
30 PRINT\\\"LOADING Utility_Screen_Bas"
40 PAUSE 300
50 LRUN flp2_utility_screen_bas
60 CLEAR:CSIZE 1,0:DLINE TO 100
```

THE UTILITIES

```
32500 utilities
32501 REMark **********
32502 DEFine PROCedure menu_sel(menus%)
32503 REMark **********
32504 LOCal loop,key,pos
32505 OPEN#1,con: OPEN#2,con: OPEN#3,ser
32506 OPEN#4,scr_355x12a78x206
32507 INK#0,0: INK#1,7: INK#2,6
32508 PAPER#0,6: PAPER#1,1: PAPER#2,2
32509 WINDOW#0,512,44,0,212: WINDOW#1,512,212,0,0: WINDOW#2,512,212,0,0
32510 Sweep 8: CLS: STRIP 2
32511 CSIZE 3,1: AT 0,10: PRINT"UTILITY MENU": CSIZE 2,0
32512 FOR loop=1 TO menus%
32513 pos=loop*2: IF loop=1: INK 7: STRIP 2
32514 AT pos,9: PRINT menu$(loop)
32515 END FOR loop
32516 PRINT #0,\"USE UP/DOWN OR NUMBER KEYS TO SELECT MENU"
32517 PRINT #0," USE ENTER KEY TO CALL SELECTED MENU"
32518 PRINT #0," ENTER 0 TO EXIT MENU"
32519 loop=0
32520 REPeat menunbr
32521 key=CODE(INKEY$(-1))
32522 STRIP 2: INK 7: AT pos,9: PRINT menu$(loop)
32523 IF key=48 THEN loop=0
32524 IF key=49 THEN loop=1
32525 IF key=50 THEN loop=2
32526 IF key=51 THEN loop=3
32527 IF key=52 THEN loop=4
32528 IF key=53 THEN loop=5
32529 IF key=54 THEN loop=6
32530 IF key=55 THEN loop=7
32531 IF key=216 OR key=208 THEN
 32532 IF key=208 THEN loop=loop-1
32533 IF key=216 THEN loop=loop+1
32534 IF loop<1 THEN loop=menus%
32535 IF loop>menus% THEN loop=1
32536 ELSE 32537 IF key=10 THEN
 32538 EXIT menunbr
32539 END IF 32540 END IF 32541
 IF loop<>0 THEN 32542 pos=loop*2
32543 STRIP 7: INK 2: AT pos,9: PRINT menu$(loop)
32544 END IF 32545 menuno=loop
32546 END REPeat menunbr
32547 PAPER 2: INK 7
32548 END DEFine menu_sel
32549 REMark **********
32550 DEFine PROCedure utilities
32551 REMark **********
32552 LOCal loop: CSIZE#0,0,0
32553 DIM menu$(7,25):SetA
32554 RESTORE 32579
32555 FOR loop=1 TO 7
32556 READ menu$(loop)
32557 END FOR loop
32558 menu_sel 7
32559 SELect ON menuno
32560 ON menuno = 0
32561 CLS: CLS#0
32562 STOP
```

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Z88 PROGRAMS, TIPS, AND OTHER USEFUL INFO

by Pieter van Dijk

Useful information for the users of Uncle Clive's newest computer

Transfer of files from the QL to the Z88.

This program can be used to send files to the Z88 from the QL, using the Import menu. I tried to use several methods of sending strings directly, but with my QL I received too many bad characters in the Z88 file. Therefore this program sends the file character by character and even a small pause had to be added to obtain flawless files. I have no idea why this is needed as transfer in the opposite direction does not have this problem. Maybe it is my machine ?

To avoid bad characters, start the Import program on the Z88 before the data transmission from the QL.

Line 220 is sent at the end of the file to inform the Z88 that the end of the file is reached.

```
100 WINDOW 512,256,0,0:PAPER 0:INK 7
110 CLS:FILENAME:CLS
120 OPEN#3,SER2
130 REPeat L
140 INPUT#4,A$
150 IF EOF(#4):EXIT L
160 FOR x=1 TO LEN(A$)
170 PRINT#3,A$(x);:PAUSE 1
180 END FOR x
190 PRINT#3,CHR$(13)
200 IF F:PRINT A$
210 END REPeat L
220 PRINT#3,CHR$(27)&"E"
230 CLOSE#4
240 DEFine PROCedure FILENAME
250 AT#0,0,10:INPUT#0,'Device :';D$
260 IF LEN(D$)=4:D$=D$&'_'
270 INPUT#0,TO 10,'Filename : ';N$
280 OPEN#4,D$&N$
290 INPUT#0,TO 10;'To screen ? (y/n) ';C$
300 F=0:IF C$ INSTR('Yy'):F=1
310 END DEFine FILENAME
```

QL UTILITIES

Continued from Page 6

```
32563 ON menuno = 1
32564 split_scr
32565 ON menuno = 2
32566 size8
32567 ON menuno = 4
32568 list2print
32569 ON menuno = 5
32570 save2file
32571 ON menuno = 3
32572 Size4
32573 ON menuno = 6
32574 dir2print
32575 ON menuno = 7
32576 SetTime
32577 END SELect 32578 STOP
32579 DATA " 1. Split Screen, MODE 4 "
32580 DATA " 2. One Screen, MODE 8 "
32581 DATA " 3. One Screen, MODE 4 "
32582 DATA " 4. List to Printer "
32583 DATA " 5. Save to a Drive "
32584 DATA " 6. Print Directory "
32585 DATA " 7. Set SUPER BASIC Time "
32586 END DEFine 32587 REMark ************************
32588 DEFine PROCedure split_scr
32589 REMark ************************
32590 MODE 4
32591 WINDOW #1,256,215,256,0
32592 WINDOW #2,256,215,0,0
32593 WINDOW #0,512,40,0,215
32594 OPEN #4,scr_236x12a137x209
32595 BORDER #1,1,0: BORDER #2,1,0
32596 INK 7: PAPER 4: INK #2,7: PAPER #2,2:
32597 CLS: CLS #2: Sweep 4
32598 END DEFine 32599 REMark ************************
32600 DEFine PROCedure list2print
32601 REMark ************************
32602 LOCal name$,fileid$,strt,stps: CLS: CLS #0
32603 PRINT #3, CHR$(27);"C";CHR$(0);CHR$(11);
32604 PRINT #3, CHR$(27);"N";CHR$(6);
32605 PRINT #3,\\\\
32606 INPUT " ENTER TITLE OF FILE"\name$
32607 INPUT " WHAT IS THE FILE ID"\fileid$
32608 INPUT " LIST BETWEEN - START",strt\" STOP",stps\
32609 PRINT #3,,name$\\fileid$\\
32610 LIST #3, strt TO stps
32611 PRINT #3, CHR$(12);
32612 PRINT #3, CHR$(27);"O";
32613 PRINT #3, CHR$(7);
32614 CLOSE #3
32615 utilities
32616 END DEFine 32617 REMark ************************
32618 DEFine PROCedure save2file
32619 REMark ************************
32620 LOCal name$,fileid$,strt,stps,d
```

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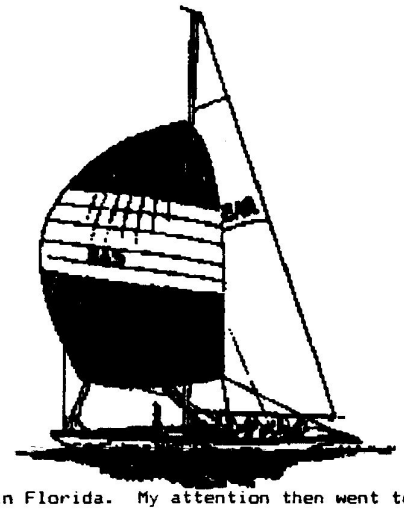
```
ash$,phrase$: CLS: CLS #0

32621 INPUT " ENTER NAME OF F
ILE"\name$

32622 INPUT " WHICH DRIVE?"\file
id$

32623 INPUT " SAVE BETWEEN -
 START",strt\" STOP",stps\

32624 LET dash$ = fileid$ & "_"

32625 LET phrase$ = dash$ & nam
e$

32626 DELETE phrase$

32627 SAVE phrase$, strt TO stps

32628 DIR dash$

32629 PRINT " PRESS ANY KEY T
O CONTINUE."

32630 PAUSE

32631 utilities

32632 END DEFine 32633 REMark *
************************

32634 DEFine PROCedure dir2print

32635 REMark ********************
*****

32636 LOCal fileid$,dash$: CLS: CL
S#0

32637 INPUT ''DIREC-
TORY FOR WHICH DRIVE?"\fileid$

32638 LET dash$ = fileid$ & "_"

32639 CLOSE #3: CLOSE #1: OPE
N #1, ser

32640 DIR dash$

32641 CLOSE #1: OPEN #1,con: O
PEN #3,ser

32642 utilities

32643 END DEFine 32644 :

32645 DEFine PROCedure SetA

32646 DIM ran$(4),d$(2),q$(3),sb$(11)
,y$(25),Y1$(33),apm$(3),Msg$(66),Frm$
(55) ,sb$(11),hr$(3),min$(3):LET n =
3:END DEFine SetA

32647 :

32648 DEFine PROCedure time

32649 CLS#4:BOR-
DER#4,1,7:REPeat The-
Time:Timex:q$=INKEY$(0) :IF q$>" A
ND CODE(q$)<>180:PAPER#4,0:CLS
#4:RETurn 32650 END DEFine time

32651 :

32652 DEFine PROCedure DSV

32653 POKE_W 163980,14:POKE_W
163982,0

32654 END DEFine DSV

32655 :

32656 DEFine PROCedure size8

32657 OPEN#1,con:OPEN#2,con

32658 OPEN#4,scr_356x12a78x206

32659 INK#0,0:INK#1,7:INK#2,6

32660 PAPER#0,6:PAPER#1,1:PAPE
R#2,2

32661 WINDOW#0,512,44,0,212:WIN-
DOW#1,512,212,0,0:WIN-
DOW#2,512,212,0,0

32662 Sweep 8

32663 END DEFine size8

32664 :

32665 DEFine PRO-
Cedure Sweep(mv)

32666 MODE mv:DSV:star-
time=0:sec=1:ssec=1:apm$="":y$=FILL$
('*',22)

32667 CSIZE#4,(mv=4),0:CSIZE#0,0,
0

32668 BORDER#0,2,188:BOR-
DER#2,2,21:BORDER#1,2,235:BOR-
DER#4,1,7:CLS:CLS#4

32669 END DEFine Sweep

32670 :

32671 DEFine PROCedure Size4

32672 OPEN#1,con:OPEN#2,con

32673 OPEN#4,scr_236x12a138x206

32674 INK#0,7:INK#1,0:INK#2,6

32675 PAPER#0,4:PAPER 7:PAPER
#2,2

32676 WINDOW#0,512,44,0,212:WIN-
DOW#1,512,212,0,0:WIN-
DOW#2,512,212,0,0: CLS #4

32677 Sweep 4

32678 END DEFine Size4

32679 :

32680 DEFine PROCedure Timex

32681 IF CODE(INKEY$(0))=180:ssec
=1:SetTime:GO TO 32685

32682 IF ssec<>sec AND sec>0:ssec
=sec

32683 Y1$=DAY$&'. '&y$(6 TO 11)&',
 '&y$(1 TO 4)&' '&y$(13 TO 20)&' '
&apm$

32684 PAPER#4,sec/8.6:INK#4,7-
(sec/8.6):AT#4,0,0:PRINT#4,Y1$

32685 y$=DATE$:sec=y$(19 TO):hr$=
y$(13 TO 14):min$=y$(16 TO 17) :da
y=y$(10 TO 11)

32686 min=min$:hr=hr$-
12*(hr$>12):IF hr<10:y$(13 TO 14)=0&h
r :ELSE y$(13 TO 14)=hr

32687 IF sec=1:BEEP min*40-5,59-
min,:PAUSE 1+min/8:BEEP min*330-
2,195+min :PAUSE 48

32688 IF min=0 AND sec>1 AND se
c<4:BEEP:FOR ring=1 TO hr:PAUSE
77+ring :BEEP:PAUSE 20+ring*2 :BE
EP-(ring*10),12-
ring,hr*ring*day,30+day-ring,13-
ring,(hr-ring)/2

32689 IF hr$<12:apm$='AM':ELSE ap
m$='PM'

32690 IF (hr=0 OR hr=12) AND min<
2 :FOR I=350 TO 1140:BEEP I*5,I*I/
40 :PAUSE 15-(I/80)

32691 IF min=30 AND sec=1:BEEP -
10000,0,254,min*5,1,0:PAUSE 160

32692 END DEFine Timex

32693 :

32694 DEFine PROCedure SetTime

32695 CLS#0:PRINT#0,'You Are Ab
out to Set the TIME.'\'Enter ONLY
NUMBERS As Reques-
ted...'\'Hit any key to con-
tinue OR'\'Hit ESC to Discontinue'

32696 PAUSE

32697 PAUSE 20:q$=INKEY$(#0,-
1):IF CODE(q$)=27:CLS#0:RETurn 32
698 INPUT#0\\'Year (YYYY):?'!yr\'M
onth (MM:?'!mon\'Day (DD):?'!day\'H
```

Continued on Page 11

QL 'n Packet

Continued from Page 4

if my problem was the TV connection. He was sorry, of course, but that was the trouble and it was my problem. Someday I'll write to Mr Moldovan and find out how to modify his program for TV. I prefer to use the monitor, hoewver, when operating from a sailboat, the TV is available and the monitor is excess baggage. I had hoped that QZX and CTM would be forwarded to me and those reliable sources would get me started. No such luck, these were not forwarded and I would have to wait 'til I got home to learn the published word. So that was the end of my QL'n Packet activity



in Florida. My attention then went to finding a printer I could afford and liked. I have been pleased with this CITIZEN and the price was right!

Back home in Maryland, I found out that the USMail had fouled me up by not saving any periodicals such as QZX and CTM. All that packet information down the drain? Baloney! There wasn't any as I found out when I had the back issues replaced. The April QZX arrived in May (Alex that was one time I was glad you were late!) with a program by Michael Mitchell. Another disappointment; it needed a monitor and I didn't know how to change it for TV.

In July - I GOT A MONITOR! Now I could do everything! So. enough of the preliminaries, let me tell you what happened.

QLTerm (Monitor required)

When I first ran this it worked OK, but there seemed to be a problem between the computer and the TNC. They just didn't want to communicate without messing up some of the characters. Packets went out OK in spite of the garbage on the screen. I left it alone for a period while I played with Mike_term and tried to solve problems I had with that program. No luck. Back to Qlterm.

I was on packet with my T/S 1500 and COMLINK II and doing OK with a baud 300 as required by the COMLINK. My idea was, to use either computer, I had to use baud 300. Qlterm allows other baud rates and, with Mike_term in mind (either 300 or 1200), I set the TNC to 1200 baud and stopped using the 1500/COMLINK.

What a difference a baud makes! The garbage dissappeared from the screen.

At last I had a program working. The first time I tried to delete - no luck. I found <CTRL-H> did the job. I also had to learn to use F5 to get from converse to command . The screen filled so fast, I had to use <CNTRL-S> well in advance to stop and read the screen. There is no screen dump as you have with the COMLINK. I suppose there is software I can buy to do this. I wish I had such a program. To open a file you must name the device, ie: "mdv1_itm" to open a file for W3ITM-9. The next problem is how to read the file. I tried: "COPY mdv1_itm to scr". The lines flew by so fast there was no way to read them. There had to be a good way; the program I use to read my files is:

```
10 REMark read file
20 WINDOW 465,204,6,0
30 INPUT "Enter a file:" ! a$
40 OPEN_IN #6,a$
50 FOR record = 1 TO 200
60     INPUT #6,item$
70     PRINT ! item$ !
80     PAUSE
90 END FOR record
100 CLOSE #6
```

Remember, a$ must name a device, such as mdv2_filename; line 80 scrolls one line at a time, using the space bar.

Using Qlterm to make a file is not the easiest thing. It goes like this:

1. Enter <CNTRL-S> to halt the display
2. Enter program command mode via F3
3. Open file, device_file name
4. Return to terminal mode
5. Enter <CNTRL-Q> to resume output from your TNC to your computer
6. After file information is completed, enter <CNTRL-S>
7. Enter command mode via F3
8. Close file.
9. Quit or return to terminal mode

Then, if you want to read the file you have to go to super basic, etc. That's why I need a screen dump in the program. I do have on file such things as SENodes, showing path from North Carolina to Florida, for example.

Mike_term

This program is the one I use most of the time. I only use qlterm if I think I want to make a file. I had my troubles when I started because I copied the program wrong. I had overlooked the ";" at the end of line 270. It was wierd to see one character at a time scrolling up the left edge of the screen. Once the missing semicolon was in place, things looked better but there was no cursur and the normal delete/backspace printed a "B"!

Delete/backspace is <CNTRL-H>, but without a cursur, it's hard to use. I use <CNTRL-X> and start the line over or include the mistake if it's not too bad. I can not find any way to get a cursur on the screen.

I changed the window and a few minor items for TV and it works just fine. This program needs a screen dump and a file procedure would be a fine thing if it were not too complicated. I like this program because it loads fast and goes to superbasic with no problems.

Summary

Serial2 pins:

1 Grnd	4 DTR	7 Grnd
2 TxD	5 CTS	8
3 RxD	6 Grnd	9 +12V

To be concluded next month

CYA WORKSHOP

We will review the last two sessions to bring us all up to equal par. In addition we expect to narrow our selection of economic indicators to the most useful based on my study of interest rates, inflation rates, money supplies, GNP and stock market indices. We should have about 3/4 th of our data base available and updated through October for copy by interested parties. If you have not sat in on our chats and excercises, do so.

A CHECKBOOK PROGRAM USING ABACUS

By Charles E. Reise

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	DATE	CK_NUM	25	TO___			BAL_FORW	0.00
2	DEP_1	0.00	DEP_2	0.00	DEP_3	0.00	INT	0.00
3	TOT_BAL	0.00		CK_AMT	0.00		FORW_BAL	0.00
4	TOT_DEPS	0.00		TOT_CKS	0.00	#OF CKS	1	*********
5	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------
6	DATE	CK_NUM	26	TO___			BAL_FORW	0.00
7	DEP_1	0.00	DEP_2	0.00	DEP_3	0.00	INT	0.00
8	TOT_BAL	0.00		CK_AMT	0.00		FORW_BAL	0.00
9	TOT_DEPS	0.00		TOT_CKS	0.00	#OF CKS	2	*********
10	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------
11	DATE	CK_NUM	27	TO___			BAL_FORW	0.00
12	DEP_1	0.00	DEP_2	0.00	DEP_3	0.00	INT	0.00
13	TOT_BAL	0.00		CK_AMT	0.00		FORW_BAL	0.00
14	TOT_DEPS	0.00		TOT_CKS	0.00	#OF CKS	3	*********
15	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------
16	DATE	CK_NUM	28	TO___			BAL_FORW	0.00
17	DEP_1	0.00	DEP_2	0.00	DEP_3	0.00	INT	0.00
18	TOT_BAL	0.00		CK_AMT	0.00		FORW_BAL	0.00
19	TOT_DEPS	0.00		TOT_CKS	0.00	#OF CKS	4	*********
20	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

THE SPREADSHEET The column and row numbers correspond to those in the text below.

LOAD SPREADSHEET PRESS F3 L AUG ENTER

TYPE DATE OF FIRST CHECK AS "TEXT —— "8/1/88. CHANGE CK_NUM TO FIRST CK_NUM. MOVE CURSOR AFTER TO__TYPE AS "TEXT TO WHOM CHECK IS WRITTEN. ENTER BEGINNING BAL —— BAL_FORW. ENTER ANY DEPOSITS OR INT. ENTER DEBITS, SUCH AS CHARGES FOR CHECKS, AS MINUS DEPOSITS. ENTER CK_AMT.

——————IMPORTANT——IMPORTANT——————

ALWAYS BE SURE TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE COPY WITHOUT ANY ENTRIES ANY TIME DURING THE MONTH OR AT THE END OF THE MONTH, IT WOULD BE BEST TO ALWAYS KEEP SEVERAL COPIES AHEAD IN ORDER TO INSURE THE CONTINUATION OF THE CELL FORMULAE. AFTER SAVING AUG WITH SEVERAL COPIES WITHOUT ENTRIES, SAVE THE SAME PROGRAM AS SEPT. RUBOUT ALL BUT THE COPIES WITHOUT ENTRIES AND SAVE AGAIN. THEN ZAP. LOAD AUG. RUBOUT UNUSED COPIES. SAVE AUG. LO

——————IMPORTANT——IMPORTANT——————

IN CASE OF CHECKS NOT BEING RETURNED IN TIME TO BE ENTERED WITH THE REST OF THE CHECKS, JUST LEAVE CK_AMT BLANK. DO NOT ALTER ANY CELLS THAT CONTAIN FORMULAE. ADJUSTMENTS CAN BE MADE BY ENTERING POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE AMOUNTS IN THE DEP_1 ROW.

——————CELL FORMULAE——————

B3——H1+B2+D2+F2+H2

H3——B3-E3

E4——0+E3

A5——REPT("-",WIDTH()+1)

H6——0+H3

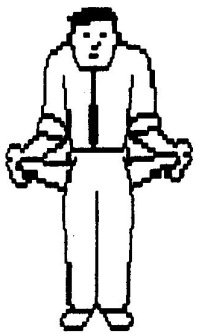
B8——H6+B7+D7+F7+H7

H8——B8-E8

B9——B4+B7+D7+F7+H7

E9——E4+E8

G9——G4+1



TREASURER'S REPORT from Ruth Fegley

Is there any wonder why we are in such good financial health?

Capital Area Timex Sinclair Users Group
(C. A. T. S.)

July 1, 1988 through June 30, 1989

R E C E I P T S		
TAPE LIBRARY		0.00
MEMBERSHIP		
New	110.00)	
Renewal	234.00)	
		344.00
NEWSLETTER		
Subscr & Back Issues	192.45)	
Ads	0.00)	
		192.45
HARDWARE ITEMS		16.00
MISCELLANEOUS		
Resale Items	3.25	
		3.25
	TOTAL	555.70
D I S B U R S E M E N T S		
TAPE LIBRARY		0.00
NEWSLETTER		
Printing	493.48)	
Mailing	134.15)	
		627.63
OFFICE EXPENSES		2.07
HARDWARE ITEMS		0.00
MISCELLANEOUS		
Resale Items	0.00)	
Recruitment & P.R.	40.03)	
Fest	200.00)	
	)	
	)	
		240.03
	TOTAL	869.73
S U M M A R Y		
Beginning Balance 07/01/88		3611.31
Receipts		555.70
	Total	4167.01
Disbur[illegible]		- 869.73
[illegible]/30/88 Balance		3297.28

QL Software Review

by Herb Schaaf

Review of program collection Nucleon by Pyramide for the QL.

So far I've been mostly confused by the documentation, which seems to have been loosely translated from the French with emphasis on the feeling and mood more than literal and technical meaning. Something more is also lost in translation, because there are demonstrations listed in the directory that aren't mentioned in the documentation. Even so, it looks like an interesting group of programs and it will be fun trying to decipher them.

Well, guess what? There's also an update_doc file shown by the directory and when I looked there I found a nice explanation that helps clear up some of the confusion. Is that fairly common in QL programs ? (ED NOTE: Yes. It is now becoming more common, especially when programs are updated and the changes don't warrant the expense of printing new documentation. The file might also be titled README_doc.) If not, I think it could be a nice touch to any programs you write, both for yourself and for others. I wish I had done a better job of documenting my ZX81 and 2068 programs, and the QL sure makes it easier to put all my rambling thoughts into a Quill _doc file instead of a few brief (and now somewhat obscure) REM statements.

There's been a slight delay while I took the QL apart to see if I can do anything about its annoying way of crashing after it has been running for a hour or two. Bopping it would bring it back to life temporarily, but all work in progress was lost. I never knew what that little kluge board on the white silicone rubber was for (and still don't) but it looked like a good thing to mess with. When I flipped it over there was a loose wire, just the sort of thing to make intermittent trouble. Now it is securely soldered, and all its cousins too just for good measure. I sure hope that was the problem — time will tell. At least my QL can now take a bopping and keeps on hopping. Remember when they took a licking and kept on ticking ? Now I wonder how many trims you can take out of the tender keyboard tails that are so fragile. (ED NOTE: See page 11 for replacement membranes.) I'm thinking of trying some way to reinforce it so it can meet the CATS working environment of frequent internal modifications—why don't we just use velcro to hold the case together? Some of the screws have begun to lose their grip, they've been in and out so often !

Live and learn! Another set of Pyramide programs called **BAG OF TRICKS** came in and I trashed it by trying to first get the directoy and then read the _doc file with **QUILL**. What happened was that it wrote the def_tmp over some of the major programs. Not a nice **TRICK** at all! When I let the cartridge boot itself the first screen warned me to make a copy of the _doc files to another cartridge before reading them. Too late ! (Mark of Sharp's said I could send it back for a replacement.)

On the other Pyramide program **'NUCLEON'** there is a program called the **INTEGRATOR** that lets you do a lot of neat things with the mdv cartridges or flp floppy disks if you have them, like a full screen directory, formating, change names, look at files (probably non-destructively too !), do selective deletion or copying, a handy all-copy command, create boots, merge and maybe more as I learn about it. It seems to crash if you try to use it to do anything with copy-protected files, but sure is nice for

Continued in the next issue

THE CLASSIFIEDS

GREAT QL YARD SALE

2040 Printer w/4 rolls paper $20

DISK DRIVES, ETC

Mitsubishi 5 1/4" Quad $45/each

Remex 5 1/4" DS/DD $15/each

Disk drive case–holds 2 full ht or 4 half ht w/ power supply $40

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Silver Reed EX34 daisy wheel printer/typewriter $160 (Has standard parallel port and uses Quill printer driver) Price includes 2 extra print wheels and 6 ribbons

ICE+Mouse with Icicle and Artice

Originally $150, now $75

Cadillac of mouse/icon systems

QL keyboard membranes $18

Prices are **PLUS** shipping

Vernon Smith (703) 978–1835

or CATS PO box

RAMDISK for the QL by Mike Mitchell Continued from the September issue

```
1000 REMark Program reads in hex codes from data lines & outputs them to a file
1010 RESTORE
1020 OPEN_NEW #4,mdv1_ramdisk_bin
1030 REPeat readloop
1040   IF EOF THEN EXIT readloop
1050   READ a$
1060   pos=1 :l=LEN(a$)
1070   REPeat spacestripper
1080     same=pos
1090     IF pos>l THEN NEXT readloop
1100     pos=pos+  (a$(pos)=" ")
1110     IF pos<>same THEN NEXT spacestripper
1120     b$=a$(pos TO pos+1)
1130     IF b$(2)=" " THEN b$="0"&b$(1)
1140     pos=pos+2
1150     value%=0
1160     FOR n=1,2
1170       cd=CODE(b$(n))
1180 value%=value%+(3-n)^4*(cd-48-7*(cd>64 AND cd<71)-39*(cd>96 AND cd<103))
1190     END FOR n
1200     PRINT #4, CHR$(value%);
1210   END REPeat spacestripper
1220 END REPeat readloop
1230 CLOSE #4
1240 OPEN_NEW #4,mdv1_ram_boot
1250 PRINT #4,"100 addr=RESPR(2043)"
1260 PRINT #4,"110 LBYTES mdv1_ramdisk_bin,addr"
1270 PRINT #4,"120 CALL addr"
1280 PRINT #4,"130 REMark In the next line, change the value '100' to suit"
1290 PRINT #4,"140 FORMAT ram1_100"
1295 PRINT #4,"150 REMark Setting up example filenames to demo DIR RAM1_"
1297 PRINT #4,"160 FOR n=1 TO 10"
1298 PRINT #4,"170 OPEN_NEW #4,'RAM1_EXAMPLE FILENAME NUMBER: ' & n"
1299 PRINT #4,"180 END FOR n"
1300 CLOSE #4
1310 :
10000 DATA " 61 20 43 FA 00 0C 34 78 01 10 4E 92 70 00 4E 75 00 01 06 2E 07 52 "
10010 DATA " 41 4D 5F 55 53 45 00 00 00 00 00 00 70 18 72 62 74 00 4E 41 47 E8 "
10020 DATA " 00 1C 45 FA 00 F4 26 CA 45 FA 03 64 26 CA 45 FA 04 E4 26 CA D6 FC "
10030 DATA " 00 0C 45 FA 05 48 26 CA 26 FC 00 00 00 24 36 FC 00 03 26 FC 52 41 "
10040 DATA " 4D 30 41 E8 00 18 70 22 4E 41 4E 75 70 03 2E 28 00 24 EF 4F EE 8F "
```

To be continued in the next issue

QL UTILITIES

Continued from Page 7

our (24 HR TIME)(HH):?'!hrs\'Minute (MM):?'!min\'Second (SS):?'!sec

32699 SDATE yr,mon,day,hrs,min,sec

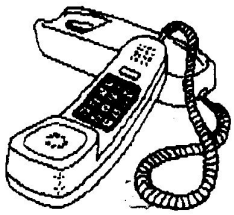
32700 utilities

32701 END DEFine SetTime

32702 :

WATCH THIS SPACE

Next month we will carry all the info about the new CATS BBS. The telephone number, how to log on, the SYSOP name, baud rates, and hours of operation.



While the BBS was established to give information coming Computer Fest next [illegible] will be an excellent source of information for our members. Newsletter articles can be left for me on the BBS.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

C.A.T.S. will run one free 1/4 page "commercial" ad per one year full ($18) membership. *Noncommercial ads may be submitted at any time.* Publication dates for both types will be determined by the Newsletter Editor.

Advertising Rates

Full page $25; 1/2 page $15; 1/4 page $10; 2" x 2 1/2" $7

FIRST CLASS MAIL

CATS Newsletter
P.O. Box 467
Fairfax Station, VA 22

The next meeting of CATS will be held on:

Saturday, November 12, 1988 11:00 AM Hardware Workshop
12:00 AM CYA Workshop 2:00 PM General Meeting

At: New Carrollton Public Library
7414 Riverdale Road (Hwy 410), New Carrollton, MD

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF CATS, THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE YOU WILL RECEIVE

DUES: $18 per year, per family

Timothy Svensson
6145-603 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church Va.

22041

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held from 11 AM to 4:30 PM, on the second Saturday of each month, at the New Carrollton Public Library.

Newsletter

Memberships cost $18 per year, are good for 12 months, and include all privileges (access to libraries, group buys, etc.). A newsletter subscription only is available for $12 per year.

Networks

Timex SIG on CompuServe: Wednesday night, 10 P.M. Eastern time (GO CLUB).

02X 005: (505) 522-7081 FIDO net 15, node 6. East Coast dial (703) 471-4815 FIDO net 18, node 5

CATS maintains a gratis exchange of newsletters with approximately 30 Users groups across the U.S. Clubs not sending a n/l to us for six months are automatically taken off the list.

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The Capital Area Timex Sinclair Users Group

is a not-for-profit group devoted to serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.